

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 28, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRICE, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2358.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2358) granting a pension to Arminda White, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives hereto appended is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

The claimant and the soldier were married in 1849, and had a number of children at the outbreak of the war in 1861. There is no question, and the proof is ample, as to the marriage, also the proof is ample that the claimant has never been divorced from the soldier or has remarried.

Israel White, the claimant's husband, enlisted in 1861 in Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was promoted before the close of the war to be a captain in same regiment. He was a good soldier and officer; was three times wounded in the service, once severely; he was mustered out with his regiment in South Carolina in 1865, but remained in South Carolina until the spring of 1866, when, as the testimony shows, he returned to his home at St. Clairsville, Ohio, where his wife and children then lived. After remaining at home a short time he returned to Columbia, S. C., to engage in business there, as his wife testifies. A comrade, Hezekiah Thomas, also returned to Columbia with Captain White. This was in June of 1866.

Mr. Thomas remained there a short time only and left Columbia in February, 1867, and returned to Ohio. His testimony was taken and is on file, as all of the testimony referred to in this report is, in pension claim No. 439363 of Mrs. White.

After Mr. Thomas left Captain White, Mrs. White testifies that she heard from her husband that he had sold out his business in Columbia, and was coming home. Since that time, now more than twenty-eight years, Mrs. White testifies that she has never heard from her husband. Testimony was taken by special examiner at St. Clairsville, and, so far as the several witnesses knew, among them the captain of Company A and afterwards lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, and other old citizens, no one has ever heard from Captain White since March, 1867.

Mrs. White testifies that she knows nothing of her husband; has never heard from him since 1867. He was a member, as Colonel Charlesworth testifies, of the Masonic fraternity, and he testifies that they have never heard from him.

Captain White was a wounded soldier, entitled under the old law to a pension; he has never made application for one. If living, he would now be 75 years old. The Pension Bureau sent a special examiner to Columbia, S. C., and that examiner reports that he can find no one there that has heard of Captain White since 1867, though he found a number who knew him in 1866, and the winter of that year.

One witness, Dr. J. F. Enson, at Columbia, testifies that Captain White bade good-bye in March, 1867, and left Columbia, his objective point being Ohio.

Persons employed by Captain White in his business testify to his leaving Columbia about that time, and that he has never been heard from or of since that time. Diligent inquiry has been made, but no word from him since 1867.

Captain White had sold out his business in Columbia and presumably had money on his person. He had been keeping a restaurant and saloon, and in the unsettled condition of things at that time, it is the belief of his family and friends that he either met with some accident or was killed for the money on his person.

This pension claim, No. 439363, was rejected November 14, 1895, on the ground, and solely on the ground, that the claimant was not able to make proof of the death of her husband. Her claim is under the act of June 27, 1890.

Mrs. White is now an old woman, near 70 years of age; she has raised the children of this soldier; she lives, by permission of one of her sons, himself a poor man, in a house that the son owns, rent free. She keeps a few boarders; she has no income of any kind, or from any direction but from her own earnings in keeping these boarders; she is old, in poor health, and needs assistance. She has had some charitable assistance from the Grand Army of the Republic.

The committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill.